

3-31-2017

The Parthenon, March 31, 2017

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Marshall celebrated at the Capitol with MU Day



ADAM STEPHENS | THE PARTHENON

Derek Scarbro, director of governmental affairs, and David Haden, a member of the Marshall Board of Governors, show the proclamation presented to the university for Marshall Day.

By ADAM STEPHENS
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University students, faculty and staff spent the morning at the state capitol building in Charleston Thursday to celebrate Marshall University Day at the Capitol, an event that showcases the different colleges, programs and activities that Marshall has to offer and why continued financial support from the Legislature is crucial.

"Any time that we have the opportunity to bring our students on trips, especially to our capitol where the state Legislature is and where these laws that ultimately affect them are happening and to do it on Marshall Day at the Capitol is just an even better opportunity," Marshall Student Body President Matt Jarvis said.

The West Virginia House of Delegates and the West Virginia State Senate both passed Resolution 62 recognizing March 30, 2017 as Marshall University Day during the legislative session. Before the session, legislators were able to visit over 40 tables in the upper rotunda of the capitol building that displayed the colleges, programs and activities that are made possible by funding from the state.

"It's always one of the best days of the year for the Marshall family because we all really get to come together — students, faculty, staff and alumni — and celebrate Marshall and share the Marshall story with the Legislature and the governor," Ginny Painter, vice president of communications, said.

The Legislature is considering cutting funding to Marshall and other universities in West Virginia due to the state's financial crisis and budget deficit. MU Day at the Capitol allows lawmakers to see where funding to higher education goes and the positive effects that it has on the state's students.

"I think that the Legislature and the governor understand the importance of higher education and I think that we were really able to demonstrate that today through 40-plus exhibits, displays and interactive activities really what the investment in higher education does in West Virginia," Painter said. "I absolutely think we made a lot of progress today."

Jarvis also said allowing state lawmakers to interact with students

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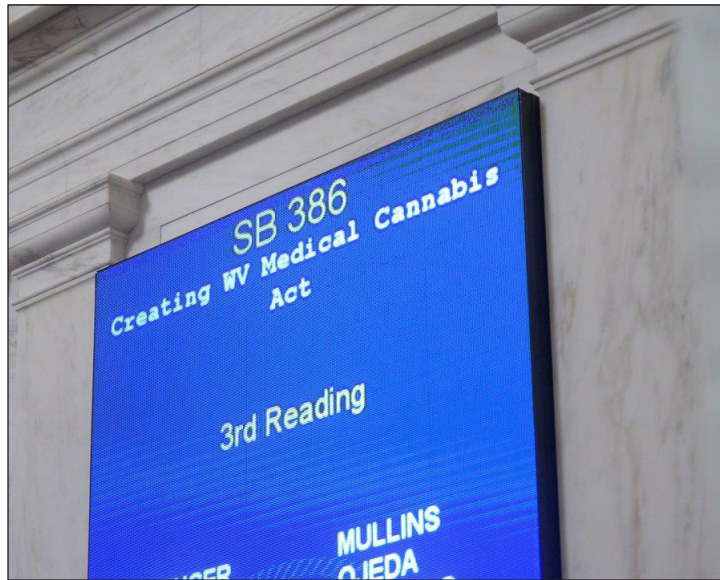


W.Va. Senate passes medical cannabis bill, moves on to House of Delegates



WILL PRICE | WV LEGISLATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY VIA FACEBOOK

Sen. Richard Ojeda, D-Logan, is the lead sponsor of Senate Bill 386 which would legalize medical marijuana in West Virginia. Ojeda is a veteran and brought dog tags to the session Wednesday night when the bill was passed.



WILL PRICE | WV LEGISLATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY VIA FACEBOOK

Senate Bill 386, known as the Creating WV Medical Cannabis Act, passed the West Virginia state Senate with a 28-6 vote Wednesday.

The bill will move on to the House of Delegates for further consideration. To become law, the bill would have to pass before the end of the legislative session April 8.

GREEN MACHINE



MU students ride FREE with I.D.

By KYLEE HURLEY
THE PARTHENON

The West Virginia Senate voted on Wednesday to pass Senate Bill 386, also known as the Creating WV Medical Cannabis Act.

"This is an opportunity for us to pass historic legislation that will do more for the citizens of West Virginia than any bill that I have seen this session combined," said lead sponsor of the bill Sen. Richard Ojeda, D-Logan.

The text of the bill can be found on the West Virginia Legislature website, where it outlines the guidelines for who is allowed to administer and obtain the medical cannabis.

According to the West Virginia Legislature website, the bill held a large number of sponsors.

SB 386 is shown on the West Virginia Legislature website as being a bipartisan effort.

Ojeda said there would be countless benefits of SB 386 if it were to pass and become law.

Ojeda said the bill would help with criminal records, people needing the assistance, and financially for the state, to name a few.

"I hope that people realize over in the House that it's time for us to open our eyes and do something for our people," Ojeda said.

The West Virginia Senate Roll Call shows SB 386 passed by a large majority, with a 28-6 vote.

The bill outlines the creation of the West Virginia Medical Cannabis Commission, which will consist of a variety of professionals who would be in charge of the funding.

According to the bill, "annually ten percent of the funds shall be dedicated to education programs regarding safe cannabis use and supporting controlled substance and alcohol recovery programs."

The text of the bill found on the West Virginia Legislature website states medical conditions the commission will consider for use.

Some of the conditions in the bill include seizures, severe or persistent muscle spasms, refractory generalized anxiety disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder, to name a few.

Tennika Phillips, who is a mental health specialist at the Marshall University Counseling Center, weighed in on the effects of the bill in regards to her profession.

"It's going to depend on what other treatments are in place, because I truly believe in addressing all aspects of health rather than whatever their prescription being whether it's medical marijuana or anti-anxiety medication," Phillips said on the substance's effects on recovery.

Phillips also said it was necessary for patients to get the counseling aspect of recovery.

Senate Bill 386 has since been communicated from the Senate to the House of Delegates for further consideration.

Kylee Hurley can be contacted at hurley40@marshall.edu.

page designed and edited by NANCY PEYTON | peyton22@marshall.edu



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LATE NIGHT



City presses on in the race for America’s Best Community

By FRANKLIN NORTON
THE PARTHENON

Community members met Wednesday at the Ritter Park rose garden for updates on Huntington’s standing in the America’s Best Community Contest, a national contest offering prize money to cities that show progress in community revitalization.

As a finalist, or as Mayor Steve Williams called it in light of March Madness, part of the “Elite Eight,” the City of Huntington received \$100,000 since September for plans to revitalize the community, and on April 17, the winners will be announced.

“We are on the precipice of changing people’s lives, here and now,” Williams said. “and for the next half-century.”

To showcase the ways in which the city is progressing and leveraging funds, the mayor invited community members and leaders to speak about ways in which certain programs and events have been spurred on by the competition.

Former City Councilwoman Sandra Clements, the leader of the Fairfield Alliance, said the Fairfield Alliance aims to connect places like Marshall University, Cabell Huntington Hospital, the Housing Authority and community members to ensure growth and progress.

“We had a meeting with the community members last Thursday and I have to say it was the most exciting meeting I’ve ever been to in my life,” Clements said.

Chip Sweeney, a senior at Huntington High School, organized “Chip’s Celebrity Bingo with Troy Brown” in an effort to raise money for an all-sports complex in the Fairfield West area.

“I saw the mayor’s presentation of the America’s Best Community pitch and I was like, ‘You know what? This could be a great thing to take part in,’” Sweeney said. “This could really help the community and I want



Huntington Mayor Steve Williams (left) speaks to a student at a Coffee with the Mayor. This is an opportunity to allow students to speak with the mayor in an informal setting.

to get involved in this.”

Sweeney announced around \$30,000 was raised for the facility.

Also announced were renovations to Heiner’s Bakery, now Bimbo Bakery, as well as renovations to reduce the company’s environmental footprint. Joanna Sexton, owner at Hattie and Nans antique store and member of the River to Rail Community and Economic Development committee, announced there have been improvements made along Madison Avenue.

“When we came together we had this wish list that was so long,” Sexton said. “I thought, ‘wishful thinking I fear,’ but with a little help, I should say a lot of help from our friends, many things came to be.”

Halcyon Moses, a representative from Moses Auto Group, also announced a \$20,000 donation from the company for projects in the west end.

“We believe,” Moses said. “We believe

in Huntington. We believe that others will follow suit. And we believe that we will win the \$3,000,000 grand prize to ensure that together we will continue to build a prosperous Huntington that will be proudly passed from generation to generation.”

The press conference ended with a pep talk from radio personality Clint McElroy, complete with a whistle, a coach’s hat and a clipboard, where he emphasized the need for community support.

The winners will be announced April 17, with the grand prize of \$3,000,000, and smaller monetary rewards for the other finalists.

“We are doing this,” Williams said. “We can compete with anybody in the world. We have it right here, and we’re going to add to the history on April 19.”

Franklin Norton can be contacted at norton18@marshall.edu.

Police Blotter

By HEATHER BARKER
THE PARTHENON

Underage Drinking

At 10:58 p.m. March 17, Marshall University Police officers were called to Freshman South Residence Hall regarding two possible cases of underage drinking. When officers arrived, two 18-year-old males were found sitting in the lobby with a smell of alcohol coming from their persons. Officers issued each subject an arrest citation for underage drinking.

Destruction of Plants

March 20, a complainant reported five plants had been destroyed on the south side of the football stadium. Estimated damage is valued between \$250-\$300 if the plants are unable to be salvaged. After reviewing video surveillance, officers found there were five subjects on bikes who uprooted the plants between 6:25 to 7:58 p.m. March 19. Officers tried to obtain video footage from nearby businesses, but the suspects remain unidentified.

Possession of Heroin

At 12:38 p.m. March 23, MUPD received a 911 call from a male stating a 35-year-old female had overdosed on the west side of the football stadium parking lot. EMS and fire were on scene providing medical

treatment to the female. EMS administered Narcan to the female’s nasal cavities and she was revived. She was then transported to Cabell Huntington Hospital. A metal spoon with a small amount of a substance with the consistency of heroin was found on the passenger side of the vehicle. The suspect admitted to injecting heroin into both her right and left hands. She was issued arrest citations for possession of a controlled substance and public intoxication.

Destruction of Property

March 26, plants were again reported as being destroyed in the same area as the ones that were uprooted March 20. Three plants were pulled from the ground on the south side of the football stadium. There were no leads on the cameras and there are no suspects at this time.

Larceny

After attending a Marshall basketball game March 26, a victim and his family reported two iPhones were stolen from the glove compartment in their car. The car was parked in the football stadium parking lot and was unlocked at the time of theft. Video surveillance is being reviewed at this time.

Heather Barker can be contacted at barker193@marshall.edu.

page designed and edited by TOM JENKINS | jenkins194@marshall.edu

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SPORTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2017 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

Tennis set for Sunday two venue day-night doubleheader

By **PATRICK O'LEARY**
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University women's tennis team has faced tough competition all season and has succeeded. The team with a 10-8 record has defeated the likes of Kentucky, Minnesota, Cincinnati, Virginia Tech

and Penn State this season.

However, Sunday the team faces a new type of challenge: a day-night doubleheader. Sunday, the team travels to Richmond, Kentucky for a competition against the Colonels of Eastern Kentucky University, with first serve set for 10 a.m.

The team will then head home and square off with West Virginia State at 7 p.m.

"It's always tough to play at the end of the semester," senior Anna Pomyatinskaya said. "You want to push yourself as hard as you can. Both teams we play this weekend are not easy, but

it's nice to have a home game finally. It will be senior night so we are excited to see a lot of people come support us."

Seniors will be recognized at the match Sunday night against West Virginia

see **TENNIS** | pg. 5



HERDZONE
Derya Turhan has won six consecutive singles matches.

page designed and edited by JOSEPH ASHLEY | ashley38@marshall.edu

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COLUMN

xoxo,
Michael Brown

By MICHAEL BROWN
ONLINE EDITOR

The readers submitted some questions about life, love and everything in between. I answered them as honest as I knew possible. I'm here to keep it real with you when no one else is and to answer with no judgment because I don't know you! I'm just a college senior who enjoys giving his opinion. Here are some of the questions I got this week:

How do I better pretend to care about the things my peers are interested in?

As I have grown old in age, I have realized that the opinion of my peers doesn't matter that much at the end of the day. Everyone is different and likes different things. I'm going to tell you to fake it like you make it. Learn to smile like you're enjoying all the idiotic things your peers are saying and roll your eyes when they're not looking. Also, practice a good fake laugh during your time alone. In the meantime, find some friends with the same interests as you.

What do you like or dislike about Marshall?

I love how welcoming and diverse Marshall is. Marshall University is truly like a home away from home. I can't imagine one can get the education we're getting here at this university anywhere else. I've never had a professor or met a staff member who didn't want to help me succeed. I am so proud to be a son of Marshall University.

What do you think would

be a good first date idea?

I like the simple things. A first date in my opinion is all about getting to know one another. If the weather is nice, you could get coffee and sit somewhere with a nice view. The weather has been really nice, so I'm thinking of tons of spring things you could do, like a quiet outside lunch or picnic. Clearly all I'm thinking about is eating and drinking. Once you get to know one another, start having some fun, maybe go bowling or go-kart racing.

If you could describe yourself in one word what would it be and why?

Strong. I don't mean that physically, I mean emotionally. I really wanted to use the word ambitious or optimistic. I chose to use strong because I've been through a lot, just like most of my peers. I'm not saying I'm above anyone because I have overcome obstacles in life, but I beat stage four cancer at the age of 18 during my senior year of high school, which I completely had to miss out on. After cancer, I had a million other things happen to me like other illnesses, and I lost my grandmother in the same year. I did all this while still trying to be strong for my family. I felt like I had to be the strong one for them.

To have your question answered you can submit them on ask.fm/mikeyyyb

Michael Brown can be contacted at brown790@marshall.edu.

This column, its author, the newspaper and its publisher are not responsible for the outcome or results of following any advice in any given situation.

EDITORIAL

Medical marijuana bill could help those in need



PARTHENON FILE PHOTO

Panelists debate the legalization of marijuana in West Virginia at the 2017 Associated Press Legislative Lookahead.

Medical marijuana can most certainly offer these people alternatives — instead of putting their friends and family through their illnesses, they can break an oppressive cycle.

Medical marijuana helps with a myriad of illness. Of course, every immune system is different, but it is known medical marijuana helps with the following — nausea relief, nerve pain relief, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, Crohn's disease, Parkinson's and even some aspects of cancer treatment. Of course, smoking the medicinal plant is inherently bad — inhaling any kind of smoke for that matter can cause irreversible damage — but the great thing about marijuana is the variety in which it can be consumed. Patients can medicate with ground-up cannabis smoked through a pipe, or they can do something to better fit their lifestyles, like eat a medicated gummy worm, or rub a salve on an affected area, soothing whatever ailment they suffer from.

It is hard to tell exactly how medical marijuana would operate in the state, but we do know patients will most likely get their medicine from a set dispensary.

Provisions have also been set in place, sending ten percent of the annual funds from medical marijuana to education programs “regarding safe cannabis use and supporting controlled substance and alcohol recovery programs.”

“This is an opportunity for us to pass historic legislation that will do more for the citizens of West Virginia than any bill that I have seen this session combined,” Ojeda said in an interview with Parthenon reporter Kylee Hurley. “I hope that people realize over in the House that it's time for us to open our eyes and do something for our people.”

The responsibility now rests on the shoulders of representatives in the House of Delegates. Passing medical marijuana could be a huge preventative step in terms of drug addiction running rampant in the state. The Parthenon urges readers to contact their representatives in regards to Senate Bill 386. Cabell County delegates are as follows:

Kelli Sobonya (R): 304-340-3175
Carol Miller (R): 304-340-3176
Sean Hornbuckle (D): 304-340-3395
Matthew Rohrbach (R): 304-340-3221

COLUMN

Is the Trump White House in cover-up mode?

By JARED CASTO

MANAGING EDITOR

Press secretary Sean Spicer was over twenty minutes late for Thursday's White House press briefing.

This wasn't exactly unusual; Spicer is known for being fifteen or so minutes late to his briefings, but Thursday was slightly different. Only minutes before Spicer was to take his usual place behind the lectern, The New York Times reported another stunning development in President Donald Trump's ongoing Russian woes.

The Times had confirmed that two White House officials — senior director for intelligence at the National Security Council, Ezra Cohen-Watnick, and Michael Ellis, a lawyer who previously worked on national security issues at the White House Counsel's Office — gave chairman of the House Intelligence Committee Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA) the intelligence information Nunes said proved officials from the Trump transition team were “incidentally” picked up in American foreign surveillance.

Up until The Times' reporting, the congressman had refused to provide the source of the intelligence, even to Republican members of the committee he chairs. Nunes had revealed this information March 22 in a set of bizarre press conferences and was later criticized for briefing

the White House on these intelligence matters, an odd decision for the chairman of a committee tasked with investigating potential Trump ties with Russia.

When the press secretary finally appeared, he acted nearly as bizarre as Nunes. Spicer began with a forced joke directed at Matthew Rosenberg, one of The Times' reporters who broke the story in question, before denying to answer any questions related to the matter during his hour-long briefing.

This kind of behavior is becoming par for the course for those in the Trump camp, to the point where it's no longer that surprising. After all, the Russian scandal did explode in more ways than one just last week, and the Trump team is visibly reeling. For the first time, the American people were offered confirmation from FBI Director James Comey that Russian interference in the 2016 election is under investigation, along with the ties between members of the Trump campaign and Russia. And last week CNN reported the FBI is in possession of documents that suggest the Trump campaign colluded with Russian officials during the 2016 election to strategically leak documents that would harm Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

As these new findings were being digested, the

Nunes story was beginning to take shape with its peculiarities on full display. These included Nunes' White House rendezvous the night before he revealed the “incidental collection” findings, as well as the congressman's cancellation of an open hearing scheduled for Tuesday, which was set to feature former director of national intelligence James Clapper, former CIA director John Brennan and former deputy attorney general Sally Yates (The Washington Post reported Tuesday the White House had attempted to block Yates from speaking, an assertion the White House later denied).

But after Thursday's revelation, the Nunes story appears to be reaching its climax, and it doesn't look good for either Nunes or the White House.

The idea that Nunes may have coordinated with the White House in an effort to verify — or at least attempt to verify — Trump's claim that former President Barack Obama had wiretapped Trump Tower has never been far-fetched. Nunes worked on Trump's transition team, raising further questions about whether he can appropriately conduct a fair investigation, and also whether his concern with the incidentally collected information may be out of self-interest.

And Ellis and Cohen-Watnick have interesting

pasts of their own, particularly Cohen-Watnick. Trump overrode the decision of national security adviser Lt. Gen H.R. McMaster to remove Cohen-Watnick from his position. And former NSC Michael Flynn — who resigned amidst reports he had discussed sanctions with a Russian ambassador — brought Cohen-Watnick into the Trump transition team and later the NSC.

Thursday evening, The Wall Street Journal reported that Flynn was willing to testify in exchange for immunity, confirming a rumor swarming political blogs since last week. It's unclear if Flynn has information directly related to Trump, but Flynn has been conspicuously quiet in the weeks since his forced resignation and his apparent fear of legal consequence suggests the information he may be in possession of — or directly involved in — could be particularly damning.

Overall, Thursday's findings raise more questions than they do answers. But, as they have for months now, all signs are pointed at Moscow and a thorough, fair and public investigation is more necessary now than ever.

Is the White House up to something? Maybe, maybe not. But as of right now, they're certainly acting as if they have something to hide.

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THE PARTHENON

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Monday through Friday during the regular semester and Thursday during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

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"Factual errors appearing in the Parthenon should be reported to the editor immediately following publication. Corrections the editor deems necessary will be printed as soon as possible following the error."

THE FIRST AMENDMENT | The Constitution of the United States of America

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble; and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.



'Pink Out Day' promotes reproductive rights, Planned Parenthood

By **SADIE HELMICK**
THE PARTHENON

In reaction to the American Healthcare Act being denied vote March 23 on Capitol Hill, Emily Thompson, a Planned Parenthood area representative, held a “Pink Out” in the Marshall University Memorial Student Center Wednesday.

“The AHCA didn’t even go to a vote, so this is really a celebration and a testament to the power of Planned Parenthood and the strength and hard work of all of the supporters,” Thompson said.

Thompson gave away buttons, t-shirts, stickers, condoms and information at her table. During this time, students could sign petitions to send to state legislators and representatives, as well as sign up to volunteer on Planned Parenthood’s behalf.

“Pink Out day is a vivid display of the widespread support of Planned Parenthood and our unwavering commitment to Planned Parenthood’s patience in the communities we serve,” Thompson said.

Students for Reproductive Justice sponsored the gathering on the plaza to show

their support of Planned Parenthood with signs and t-shirts.

Freshman Abigail Casto of the Students for Reproductive Justice said she is looking forward to getting the organization off the ground and more well-known next semester.

“I know that there are tons of people on campus that support the cause,” Casto said. “I think they don’t know about the group or know how to join the group.”

Sadie Helmick can be contacted at helmick32@marshall.edu.

Feds pull financial aid tool after potential data breach

By **COLLIN BINKLEY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Families applying for federal student aid are facing extra hurdles this year after a potential data breach led federal officials to remove an online tool that smoothed the process.

The Education Department and the Internal Revenue Service said Thursday that an online service known as the Data Retrieval Tool will stay offline for the rest of this application season. In the past, families could use the tool to import their tax information automatically to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, a complex form needed to get federal aid.

Now families filing the form will have to fill out their tax information manually using old tax returns, an obstacle that some education experts fear

will deter families from filing.

“It’s not impossible, but it’s going to make it more difficult,” said Justin Draeger, president and chief executive of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. “Not everybody has access to their prior year’s return.”

Federal officials unexpectedly removed the online tool in early March, at a time when many families across the U.S. were applying for aid. The IRS later said they shut it down because identity thieves may have used personal information “obtained outside the tax system” to access the online tool in an attempt to steal further data.

Identity thieves could use that information to generate fake tax returns and claim the tax refunds. The IRS said it’s still trying to determine

how many taxpayers might have been affected, but added that the agency had already stopped some questionable tax returns that were filed by users who accessed the tool.

IRS Commissioner John Koskinen acknowledged the inconvenience, but said the agency couldn’t risk the safety of taxpayer data.

“Protecting taxpayer data has to be the highest priority, and we will continue working with (the Education Department office that handles student aid) to bring this tool back in a safe and secure manner,” Koskinen said in a statement.

For families that don’t have copies of their tax returns, the IRS suggests trying to retrieve the documents from their tax preparers or the software they used to file it. If needed, the

IRS can also provide a tax transcript that includes a summary of previously filed tax returns.

The tool’s absence could cause extra work for colleges, too. The IRS routinely asks campuses to verify the tax information on the form from certain students as a security measure. In the past, students who didn’t use the online tool were more likely to be selected for extra verification, Draeger said. Some colleges have already noticed an increase in verification requests this year.

“If nobody is using the IRS data retrieval tool, it’s unclear whether this is going to throw a wrench into their income verification modeling,” Draeger said.

Federal officials say the data tool will remain offline until the start of the next FAFSA season, which typically begins Oct. 1.

CAPITOL cont. from 1
can have a big impact on when it comes to how legislators vote on higher education funding.

“Whenever you have those conversations suddenly that decision to maybe cut funding for higher education becomes a little bit harder, so we were hoping to get these students out here to let them talk, to get them that opportunity to give them a voice and to make connections,” Jarvis said.

Derek Scarbro, the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for Gov. Jim Justice, said he enjoyed seeing the many members of the Herd at the capitol and that the governor understands the need for higher education.

“We’re working hard to try and keep down the amount of potential cuts to higher

education because we do believe that is a good investment,” Scarbro said. “It’s a high priority for the state to invest in our young people and to keep them here and to help them grow the economy. It’s the only way we’re going to turn this state around.”

Scarbro presented a Marshall Board of Governors member a proclamation by the governor marking Thursday as Marshall University Day. Scarbro said Justice was unable to attend the presentation because he was meeting with legislative leaders and that they were close to making a deal on the state’s budget.

The legislative session ends on April 8.

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TENNIS cont. from 3

State, with the match being the final home contest for the team. The team will honor seniors Rachael Morales and Derya Turhan along with Pomyatinskaya.

“Our seniors Derya, Rachael and Anna are the ones with the experience and who have been through this part of the season now three times,” head coach John Mercer said. “They know what it’s all about and I think they will show good leadership down at the end here.”

Following Sunday, the tennis team only has two matches remaining before the Conference USA Championships beginning April 20 hosted by North Texas. The team will travel to Houston, Texas for matches against South Florida and Rice April 8 and 9 respectively. This will present the team with time to condition and mentally

prepare for the Conference USA Championships.

Last season the team defeated Florida Atlantic in the first round of the conference championships before falling to Old Dominion in the quarterfinals.

“We keep trying to get better as a team,” Mercer said. “We’re working a lot on our doubles. Overall, we’re trying to get our fitness going. We have a little break in the schedule, with not too many matches over a short period of time for the first time this year. That will give us a little time to work on our conditioning and fitness and to mentally get ready for the conference championships.”

Sunday night’s match will take place at the Fox Tennis Center on Marshall’s campus barring inclement weather.

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Owl stuck between truck cab and trailer on the mend

By **MICHAEL CASEY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Heading home to New Hampshire, truckers Will Sword and Tyler Buckley were on the road in Massachusetts when they heard a bang. At first, they thought the truck had hit a tree.

But when they stopped and Buckley got out to investigate, he was shocked to see an owl trapped between the cab and the cargo hold. And it was still very much alive.

"He said, 'Dude, it's an owl,'" Sword said, who snapped a photo of the male barred owl trapped earlier this month. He recalled it was flapping its wings and trying to escape.

Sword got on the phone to the New Hampshire State Police, who referred him to Jane Kelly, who runs a rehabilitation and education center in Epping

for birds of prey called On the Wing. She advised him to gently remove the bird from the truck with heavy gloves to avoid the sharp talons, keep it warm with a blanket and place it in a box.

"It's absolutely a miracle that it's alive after getting hit by a truck," said Chris McKee, a conservation officer with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, who picked up the bird the next day and brought it to Kelly. He said the owl was most likely trying to hunt for rodents along the highway when it collided with the truck.

Kelly brought the bird to Veterinary Emergency & Surgery Hospital in Brentwood to be examined. It didn't appear to have any broken bones but did suffer head trauma in the collision and is having trouble seeing out of its right eye. Named Trucker,



Jane Kelly, owner of On the Wing, in Epping, New Hampshire, holds a barred owl that is recovering there after being hit by a truck and becoming lodged between the cab and the cargo hold of a truck traveling from Massachusetts to New Hampshire earlier in the month.

the bird has been recovering, eating and perching on its own.

Kelly said it should be moved

this weekend to a larger enclosure and eventually be released into the wild.

After school program strives to remain in operation for another year

FOR THE PARTHENON

River Valley Child Development Services' School Age Connections program is working to raise funds to continue its program for another year and longer if possible.

RVCDS provides early childhood care and education services for children and families. RVCDS' School Age Connections is an after-school program which keeps children engaged, both physically and mentally. It provides activities for each child's needs and interests. The program helps children prosper socially, while still helping them develop their independence skills.

"The format of this program has been heavily enrichment-based," said Valerie Bailey, Director of the School Age Connections program. "This means that we have not just been 'watching' the children. We offer some kind of activity for them every day - arts and crafts, STEM activities, group games, cooking, physical activity, nutrition, local history, reading, computer time, robotics, music, and mental health just to name a few."

Bailey said these activities are provided with help from local organizations and businesses, such as the Huntington

Museum of Art, Marshall University, The June Harless Center, YMCA Kids in Motion, the Guyandotte Public Library and the Guyandotte Historical Society.

The after school program at Guyandotte Elementary provides its services free of charge to families at Guyandotte Elementary School, although the cost to operate per child is about \$1,000. Guyandotte's RVCDS currently has 42 students enrolled.

"To completely fund a program for an entire school-year, 5 days per week from school dismissal until 6 p.m., for 32 children, at zero cost to families - is approximately \$27,000," Bailey said.

The program is designed for children ages four through 12 enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten through fifth grade. The program also provides all day release for day care due to a break or school cancellation. RVCDS even offers a summer camp as part of School Age Connections.

"I think the most rewarding aspect of this program is the impact it is making on the lives of these young children," said Jessica Lundy, School Age Connections Site Supervisor. "They are learning that they do matter in this big ole

world, that they each have something to offer, and that their words are powerful tools. Sometimes the one-on-one talks we have with students about why they are talented, full of potential, or worth so much more than mere words are all they need to keep from giving up on reaching their goals. That means the world to me. Every moment that a child believes otherwise breaks my heart."

RVCDS has teamed up with Marshall University's student run public relations firm, Be Herd Communications, to raise funds for the upcoming school year. Together they have partnered with local businesses for fundraising events, such as Cabell-Wayne Animal Shelter, Backyard Pizza and Raw Bar and Christopher's Eats.

Mikaela Keener, Director of Be Herd Communications, said the experiences gained from the public relations capstone class provides the students insight into the public relations field while helping community organizations.

"This is a great opportunity for our class to have real-life experience in the public relations field while giving back to our community," Keener said. "We are honored to be working with River

Valley Child Development Services to help the continuation of the after school program, and to provide the children of Guyandotte a safe and educational after-school environment."

Funds raised from all events go to RVCDS and help plan the large event fundraiser. The large event is a Murder Mystery Masquerade. There will be food, a silent auction and games. All the proceeds made from these events will go to RVCDS to continue providing these free services to local families in Guyandotte.

"I wish people could see the community that is being built around this little program," Lundy said. "The teachers offer me tips, advice and help anytime I need it or ask. They are willing to spend a little extra time with a student in after-school for homework help or encouragement. The teachers and staff at Guyandotte are so helpful and encouraging. And the parents! It's neat to see how the parents come together to bring extra snacks, books and puzzles. The parents and teachers are very much a part of the program. Going to work at Guyandotte feels like home. The people and students feel like family."



HUNTER ELLIS | SUBMITTED PHOTO
Children participate in RVCDS' School Age Connections program. The program helps children with social skills, as well as helping them pursue further various skills independently.



SON NGUYEN | SUBMITTED PHOTO
Volunteer Ashley Johnson helps students at the program with their homework. Citizens looking to volunteer have the opportunity Monday through Friday from 3 to 6 p.m. at Meadows Elementary, Guyandotte Elementary and the Explorer Academy. There are also opprounities for all day care during school breaks, OSE days and during the RVCDS summer program between 7:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.

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